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The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" My object in reading out those figures is to show that no land has been thrown out of cultivation."

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" There have been repeated complaints made by the people of the villages bordering the Ghats near Mercara, etc., that large areas have been thrown out of cultivation on account of forests. I want to know whether the Government made enquiries ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" Government have made enquiries and I have read the figures to the House just now."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" May I know whether any cultivable lands have been converted into reserve forests in those districts ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" I want notice, Sir."

Local Fund Audit

Expenditure on the Local Fund Audit Department.

124 Q.—Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO : Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state districtwar—

(a) the expenditure incurred every year from the date of establishment on the Special Local Fund Audit Department ; and

(b) the special features of work, if any, which may be considered an improvement on the old order of things ?

A.—(a) The Local Fund Audit Department was organized in its present form on the 1st December 1923. The following statement shows by districts the annual cost of Local Audit for the two complete years for which the department has existed in its present form :—

District.	1924-25.	1925-26.
	RS.	RS.
Ganjam	10,003	8,506
Vizagapatam	12,934	12,552
East Godavari	13,594	10,513
Kistna	12,330	9,995
Guntur	16,978	19,213
Nellore	7,153	9,540
Bellary	7,075	7,217
Kurnool	9,141	7,290
Cuddapah	7,489	6,372
Anantapur	8,897	7,044
Chittoor	8,011	6,340
South Arcot	9,167	8,263
Tanjore	13,389	12,863
Trichinopoly	16,225	17,452
Madura	10,854	10,407
Ramnad	9,246	7,655
Tinnevelly	9,814	7,927

to the deceased. Will he be pleased at least to state whether the compensation granted to the deceased was found adequate taking into consideration the loss incurred by the family in the death of that man ?"

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"It was in that feeling that compensation was ordered."

Cultivable lands thrown out of cultivation in South Kanara, etc.

* 123 Q.—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA : Will the hon. the Home Member, the hon. the Member for Revenue and the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased—

(a) to place on the table of the House a statement showing the areas of cultivated lands thrown out of cultivation on account of the increase of malaria and wild beasts, etc., as a result of the rapid development of reserve forests in South Kanara, Malabar, Coimbatore and Nilgiris districts during the last twenty-five to fifty years ; and

(b) to state what preventive steps Government propose to take in the matter ?

A.—(a) & (b) The Government have no reason to think that any land has been thrown out of cultivation owing to the causes alleged. The area of cultivation has, on the other hand, largely increased.

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—"With reference to the answer to this question, may I ask the Government on what grounds they have given that answer ?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—"We have got facts and figures supporting the answer given. I will read out the figures for the information of this hon. House :—

	Fasli.	Acres.
The lands thrown open for cultivation in South Kanara in	1314	738,732
Do. do. ...	1334	944,558
The lands thrown open for cultivation in Malabar	1304	943,424
Do. do. ...	1334	1,343,088
[a] The lands thrown open for cultivation in Coimbatore	1304	2,409,805
Do. do. ...	1334	2,307,555
The lands thrown open for cultivation in the Nilgiris	1304	1,999,058
Do. do. ...	1334	192,024

[a] The decrease of 102,250 acres is due to the transfer of Karur taluk to the Trichinopoly district in Fasli 1320.

From these figures it will be seen that the area under cultivation has largely increased."

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—"My question is not whether the area has increased. Naturally there must be some increase in the area under cultivation. My question is whether, on account of increase of forests, lands have been thrown out of cultivation in the Nilgiris, etc. That question has not been answered ?"

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The hon. Mr. T. E. Moir :—" The answer to the first part of the question as to what are the special features of the work, if any, which may be considered an improvement on the old order of things has been given. The principal advantages are clearly stated in the answer. As to the further question as to whether irregularities and losses have actually been discovered under the new system I am afraid I must ask for notice."

Mr. G. Harisarvottama Rao :—" I am afraid the hon. the Finance Member does not catch me. I was asking the figures for the last three years to show the improvements effected, and the special features of the new system ?"

The hon. the President :—" They are given in the answer to clause (b)."

Mr. G. Harisarvottama Rao :—" If it is a question regarding the principles on which the specialization was thought necessary, the answer would be sufficient. But as it is a question of improvements on the old system, I expected a more detailed answer. Now, if he wants notice I am agreeable."

Local Boards

Bifurcation of the Kistna District Board.

* 125 Q.—Mr. D. Narayana Raju : Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether there were any proposals to bifurcate the present Kistna District Board ; and

(b) if so, when the bifurcation is going to be effected ?

A.—(a) Yes.

(b) The matter is under consideration.

Mr. D. Narayana Raju :— " The proposals for bifurcation have been pending for the last two years. May I know what the matters are that are under further consideration and prevent the bifurcation being given effect to at once ? "

The hon. Dr. P. Subbarayan :—" The Government have now finally decided to bifurcate the Kistna district."

Mr. D. Narayana Raju :—" May I know the probable date on which effect will be given to it ? "

The hon. Dr. P. Subbarayan :—" It is very likely that it may take effect on 1st April 1927."

Mr. D. Narayana Raju :—" The present District Board has got several funds in the shape of railway cess, etc. When the board is bifurcated, these should be divided between the two boards. Now, the president of the board has been spending large sums out of that sum. He has already spent nearly 3 or 4 lakhs and the lion's share of it is going to one part of the district only."

The hon. the President :—" That question does not arise out of the answer given."

Mr. D. Narayana Raju :—" I am putting a separate question. "